

Germinator



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February 2019

LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Steering Committee Meeting

Extension Office
February 12 • 6:30 pm
(note time change)

Extension Council Meeting

Extension Office
February 11 • 5:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Extension Office
February 18 • 3:00 pm

Garden Walk Committee Mtg.

Extension Office
February 14 • 6:30 pm

Winter Gardening Fair Volunteer Training

Kirkwood Community College
Campus—Cedar Hall
February 15 • 5:30 pm

Winter Gardening Fair

Kirkwood Community College
Campus
February 16 • 8:00 am-3:45 pm

Expert Ed

Extension Office
February 25 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Winter Gardening Fair Just Around the Corner!

By Co-Chairs, Julie Clemens and Beverly Witmer

This year the event is being held on February 16, at Kirkwood Community College at 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, from 8am until 3:45pm.

If you're excited for spring to get here so you can play in the soil and create that perfect space or perfect blend of ingredients, then you'll want to attend this year's event (and encourage your friends and family to attend!). It's packed full of fun

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classes to get those creative juices flowing as to what you want to plant, where to plant it and what to do with it once it flourishes.

The 18th annual event features over 75 classes, laid out in 5 sessions. We're doing 5 sessions with no keynote speaker this year to add a little variety. One comment we heard from last year is that people want to attend more classes and so this will give attendees a chance to register for a 5th session. The cost is still \$59. For complete details about classes and registration, go to <https://conta.cc/2QxxWng>. There is still time to register, and registering early ensures a better chance of the classes you are interested in being available.



There are over 30 vendors and societies ready and willing to help with questions you may have and of course sell you some goodies.

We are holding a volunteer training at Kirkwood, Cedar Hall, Rm 343, Friday, February 15 at 5:30 pm. This meeting will **review new procedures** and answer questions you may have about the event. To encourage your participation, those MGs who have volunteered to help on Saturday and who attend the training session will be provided a **FREE lunch ticket for the event on Saturday. Even if you have attended training sessions before, your participation is critical to ensure the event goes smoothly. So please plan on attending the training to meet your fellow volunteers and feel prepared for the day.**

Thank you to the WGF committee for all your help, commitment and input.

Save the Dates:

WMT Outdoor Living Show

The WMT Outdoor Living Show is set for Saturday, March 9th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, March 10th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The event is held at Hawkeye Downs in the main exhibition building. Volunteers will be needed to work at the publications table, act as Plant Doctors and to answer general gardening questions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sue Usher (dsajusher@juno.com)

Annual Awards Banquet

The 2019 Annual Awards Banquet will be April 9 at the Flamingo, 1211 Ellis Blvd. NW. Please plan to join your fellow MGs for a social evening honoring the past year's achievements. If you have questions, contact Beth Roof (beth.roof@gmail.com)

Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Hello, Master Gardeners:

By now you've received (via email) your invitation to volunteer at the Winter Garden Fair. I encourage you to join in, especially if you're new to the MG program. The Winter Garden Fair is a great way to meet fellow Master Gardeners and mingle with folks who are interested in the same thing we love—all things gardening.

Please return your signup forms to me, either by email or in person, as soon as you can. The volunteer coordinators for the event will start assigning roles for everyone soon. And if you haven't picked a Spot to babysit a poster, please do so – we still have available spots in and around Cedar Rapids. It's a quick and easy way to get your volunteer hours and help us advertise the WGF.

I thought I'd give you some dates for events after the Winter Gardening Fair where we'll need volunteers. We'll keep our event page updated at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/yard-gardenhorticulture> with details as we get them.

Mark your calendars:

- The library talks begin in March and continue into April at area libraries. You can attend a talk and that will count toward your education hours (and you'll be supporting our MGs who speak).
- The Creative Garden Series in April will have three speakers on Tuesdays, starting on April 16. I am working on finalizing a brochure for the event and we'll put that on our event page when it's ready.
- The annual Plant Sale will be on May 11 in Marion, at the American Legion (like last year).
- The Garden Walk is on July 13. We're hoping to offer pre-event tickets for this and perhaps sell tickets at the Plant Sale. I'm working on a flyer for this event and I'll post it on the event page as soon as it's ready.

As you can see, we're entering our Busy Time, so stay tuned for email from me with all the news and updates. And please, if you haven't updated your email in the VRS system, do it as soon as you can. I'm still getting bounced email from people and even though I've sent you a letter about it, the emails still bounce. I can't keep you in touch if I can't reach you!

Jean

Things We Love—Test Your Fun Flower Facts

By Kathy Hughes

During this FRIGID time in January, try taking this “Flower Quiz” and see how many you get right...and maybe warm, sunny and spring thoughts will come to mind!

1. Which of these flowers is the favorite of over 80% of Americans?
a. Daffodils b. Roses c. Carnations d. Dandelions
2. Which of these flowers can be used instead of onions in cooking?
a. Roses b. Tulips c. Iris d. Lilies
3. Which flower’s name means “day’s eye”?
a. Lilac b. Dandelion c. Daisy d. Sunflower
4. Saffron, the spice, comes from a type of which flower?
a. Crocus b. Magnolia c. Gardenia d. Iris
5. Which of these flowers does not need soil to grow?
a. Lavender b. Lilies c. Orchids d. Tulip
6. Which flower was poisoned by the Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz?
a. Iris b. Sunflower c. Poppy d. Rose
7. Magnolias were named after which botanist?
a. Nolia b. Mangolian c. Magnol d. Darwin
8. How many species of violets are there?
a. 3 b. 400-500 c. 1000s d. 1
9. Which flower’s juices were previously used to make glue?
a. Buttercup b. Morning Glory c. Bluebell Flower d. Rose
10. Which of these plants is related to a banana plant?
a. Bird of Paradise b. Roses c. Sunflowers d. Gardenia

Answers: 1. b; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a; 5. c; 6. c; 7. c (Pierre Magnol); 8. b; 9. c; 10. a

Local Master Gardener Event of Interest:

February 23 (8:30-3:30)

13th Annual Buchanan County Master Gardener Symposium
First Presbyterian Church, 116, 6th Avenue, NW, Independence, Iowa
Registration Fee: \$35.00—contact Ashley Sherrets to register
(sherrets@iastate.edu)

Website: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/buchanan/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/buchanan/2019%20Symposium%20Brochure.pdf>

2019 Spring Library Talks

Ladd Library

3750 Williams Blvd, SW, Cedar Rapids
Tuesday (6:30 – 7:30)

March 5: The art of starting garden transplant from seed (Deb Walser): Learn to start vegetables indoors for planting when the time is right. We will talk about the right soil, how to read the seed packet, how to water, how to pot up and how to get the babies ready for their new home.

March 12: Gorilla Gardening in Sun and Shade! (Peggy Pearson): Small yard? Too much shade? Too much sun? Learn how to persevere (gorilla your way) and blaze a trail of new gardens when you have little to no space - in shade or sun! Horizontally, vertically, unusual spots, hay bales or pots. Also some cheap DIY gardening decor and plant ideas.

March 19: Straw Bale Gardening (Barbara Wing): Want to pull fewer weeds? Bend over less? Gardening on cement? Try straw bale gardening. Learn how to set up, plant and grow vegetables and flowers on straw bales.

March 26: Hosta Landscape Design (Karen Woeste): Creating a beautiful hosta garden requires an understanding of your available space, knowledge of the care of hosta and the different types of hosta available. We will explore different types of gardens and accent plants that complement the beauty of the hosta garden.

Lisbon Library

101 E Main Street, Lisbon
Wednesday (6:30 – 7:30)

March 6: Earth-Friendly Lawn Care (Phil Pfister): You CAN have a great-looking, neighbor-pleasing lawn and still be earth-friendly. Join Phil as he explores the various techniques used to maintain a safe and healthy lawn, including organic options and the responsible use of chemicals.

March 13: Spring Garden Maintenance (Wil Carew): Wake your landscape up: It's spring. Time to get your yard, landscape and gardens ready for another growing season, but how do I start?" Join Wil as he covers what to do, when to do it, and why!

March 20: Meditation, Healing and Stress Relieving Gardens (Judy Stevens): Everyone gardens for different reasons but the most often used quote is that "it calms me". This class is designed to share various techniques and plans that can be incorporated into a garden allowing you to meditate, heal and lower your stress level. Join us and bring your techniques and success stories to share.

March 27: A Taste of Herbs (Judy Bemer): Learn how and where to grow herbs, how to use and preserve them. Judy will introduce some new herbs and discuss those that may be familiar as well.

Marion Library

1095 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa
Wednesday (6:30 – 7:30)

March 6: Living with Bambi (Karla McGrail): It IS possible to have a gorgeous and productive urban garden even in deer territory. This class covers many helpful tips and strategies to increase your success.

March 13: Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial (Zora Ronan): This class covers the basic information needed to grow perfect daylilies. Linn County Master Gardener and American Hemerocallis garden judge, Zora Ronan, will talk about selection, planting, and maintenance. This class is for those who are just beginning to take an interest in daylilies.

March 20: Planting Salsa Gardens Correctly (Clark Urbin): Learn the who, how, what and where of Gardening for salsa. Recipes included.

March 27: Green with Envy (Devon Dietz): Everyone loves a beautiful lawn. How to start one? How to encourage it? How to maintain it? How to deal with invaders (weeds)?

Mt Vernon (Cole) Library

620 3rd Street, SW, Mt. Vernon
Thursday (6:30 – 7:30)

March 7: Discover Butterflies (Devon Dietz): The twenty most common butterflies in Iowa. Wonderful photos of caterpillar and adult. Lists of the food sources for the caterpillar and the adults.

March 14: Starting Seeds and Transplants (Phi Pfister): Starting flowers and vegetables from seed is not only fun and satisfying, but it can also be a cost effective way of expanding your garden varieties. Phil will provide tips and techniques on seeding, transplanting, and setting plants out in the garden, and extending the growing season. This presentation concentrates mainly on vegetable production, but the techniques also apply to flowers.

March 21: Everything Whimsical (Lori Bailey): Let the fun begin! How about putting a little whimsy in your garden! Lori will share how to put your own personal style and artful fun into your garden. Learn how to accent your favorite plants with colorful, purposeful and whimsical garden art. It will turn your garden into a unique, one of a kind backyard retreat!

March 28: Gardening Folklore (Judy Stevens): Ancient Civilizations up to modern times have planted and propagated seeds and plants. With this life sustaining practice there were many superstitions and myths that were passed from generation to generation. This fun class will explore folklore and myths associated with gardening. Join us for learning about these non-Iowa State approved gardening methods.

Hiawatha Library

150 W. Willman Street, Hiawatha
Thursday (6:30-7:30)

March 7: Native Bees (Karla McGrail): This class will introduce you to a few of the hundreds of bee species in Iowa. Learn about the landscaping changes you can make to help protect and preserve our valuable native bees, including how to make a simple bee house for your property.

March 14: For the Love of Monarchs (Carol Elliott): Want to make a difference for the monarchs? One thing we can do is grow milkweed. Another is planting a pollinator friendly garden. Still others raise monarchs either in their homes or by starting a Monarch Zone on their property. Come learn more about how you can make a difference for the monarchs and raise your own generation of monarchs or swallowtails. It's great fun and education for both kids and adults.

March 21: Create Your Own Backyard Habitat (Devon Dietz): Devon will focus on habitat elements at your home that will attract interesting and beneficial species!!

March 28: Pleasing the Bees and Butterflies: Planting for Pollinators (Jo Dillon): Our lives on Planet Earth are intertwined with those of many creatures, including pollinators like bees and butterflies. But pollinators and their habitats are disappearing. Learn about the bees and butterflies and other pollinators, what's happening to them, what's being done to save them, and how you can help by planting beautiful plants in your garden.

Volunteers Needed

Lowe Park Greenhouse

We are in need of someone to water on Friday mornings for the next two weeks, and also to replace Tracy Hanson on Sundays. We will provide instruction, so please don't let lack of experience deter you from volunteering. During this time of year, this is not much more than an hour to hour and a half commitment. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Phil Pfister, ppfister47@gmail.com.

Winter Gardening Fair

If you haven't already, please complete and send in the volunteer signup form which was emailed out to all MG on January 10.

If you have questions about the event, feel free to contact one of the co-chairs (Julie Clemens; julsannie@yahoo.com, 319-784-8821 / Beverly Witmer; peanut024@msn.com, 319-981-4363

Expert Ed Webinars Planned

By Linda Hayward

Both of the below presentations will be at the Extension Office, 383 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the large conference room. The Webinars will be open to Master Gardeners and the public.

It is important to register so if there are handouts, they will be available. To register follow this link - <https://conta.cc/2JOiCCY> or call the Linn County Extension (319) 377- 9839 or email jorah@iastate.edu

"The World of Orchids"

Monday, February 25 (6:30-8:30)

"The World of Orchids" will be the topic presented by Nile Dusdieker, MD. Nile is the current President of the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society and has been growing orchids along with his wife Lois since the mid-1980s. He is an American Orchid Society orchid judge and has travelled widely judging and seeking orchids in nature throughout the world.

This presentation is meant to be an introduction to orchids in general with emphasis on ones that can be grown fairly easily. Cultural aspects will be discussed with questions welcomed. A photo of our exhibit at the recent fall orchid show in Cedar Rapids is show at right. All of these orchids are from club members that grow them in Iowa.



Be a Good Neighbor

Wednesday, March 27 (6:30-7:30)

We know from public health evidence that common weed killers used on lawns and gardens pose an unacceptable risk to child health, pollute local streams, and harm pollinators. In this presentation you will learn about Good Neighbor Iowa (<https://goodneighbor Iowa.org/>), a program that involves Iowa schools, parks, child care centers and institutions to consider managing their grounds without weed killers. Hundreds of entities in Iowa have committed to do so.



Come and learn about leading communities in Iowa and how they have significantly reduced use of weed killers and have created healthy public spaces. Presenter is Audrey Tran Lam, MPH, Center for Energy and Environmental Education, University of Northern Iowa (Audrey.tranlam@uni.edu)

January 8, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

Present: Lynne Brokaw, Diane Brooks, Kathy Carew, Randy Dusil, Linda Hofmeister, Jan Knott, Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumholz, Jackie Maclaren, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walsler, Bev Whitmore (via remote connection), and Diane Wiesenfeld. **Absent:** Julie Clemens (excused). **Guests:** Beula Dvorak, Jean Wilson, and Raeann Gordon.

Approval of previous month's minutes: The minutes for the December 2018 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

None

Financial Report:

The December 2018 Financial Report and Transaction Report were distributed and approved. Discussion followed to clarify format content, carry-over and spend down philosophy as well as transparency to MG members.

Master Gardener Coordinator Report:

Overall active membership currently stands at 170.

There has been considerable recent coordination with regard to WGF preparation and planning.

The ISU Extension guidelines will be rigidly adhered to going forward with regard to missed classes by trainees and will be made clear to them upfront.

Project approvals will go through the Coordinator for Steering Committee review and recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval.

A new Master Gardener brochure was distributed for review.

A suggestion was made to consider a survey of project participants to monitor project success and define potential areas of improvement.

Travel time was defined as allowable for volunteer activities but not as related to education hours. This will be further discussed at the Project Chair Meeting as well as defining types of allowable education hours that are not actual class contact times.

Old Business:

In order for Master Gardener volunteer hours to be claimed they must to be associated with an approved Project.

Due to liability issues, public health, food safety and regulations the Master Gardener Program is not allowed to be involved in food preparation or

preservation activities without proper certification and licensing. Examples would be tomato tasting, salsa making talks, etc. that have been performed in the past.

The Hortwriters are the group responsible for articles in the Gazette and City Revealed or similar publications.

A Steering Committee member contact list was circulated for updating to be made available to all Master Gardeners.

New Business:

A request was submitted to the SC for a new program and funding of a pilot for Junior Master Gardener Curriculum as part of education at Old MacDonald’s Farm and Tanager Place. The committee approved the project along with the requested \$400 initial cost.

A written proposal was received and discussed for a new program titled Linn County Seed Exchange. It was decided to invite the Master Gardener applicant to upcoming SC meeting for further clarification and details before further consideration.

A request for stipend funds was approved for an additional MG to attend the International Master Gardeners Conference in Philadelphia this June. Stipends will be limited to one each per person per calendar year pending SC approval.

An agenda for Thursday’s Project Chair Meeting was distributed and a few items relating to tonight’s meeting were added.

Consideration is being given to having project committee reports on a quarterly basis in lieu of monthly basis.

Motion to Adjourn

Next Steering Committee Meeting: February 12, 2019, 6:30 pm (note changed date)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 18, 2019, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Dusil

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